



Illinois State Board of Education

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Weekly Message

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January 17, 2006

Weekly Message from State Superintendent Randy Dunn

Good afternoon.

As I referenced a week ago yesterday, I spent all of the past week in the Chicago office and had a great time making new—and renewing existing—professional friendships and attending a number of events. Of course, that week on the road was followed by the three-day weekend honoring Dr. King.

So, today, I'm paying the price for all of that time out of the Springfield office—while also finalizing preparations for the monthly meeting of the State Board which convenes here in town tomorrow and Thursday.

Simply put, I'm behind—and getting behind-er as the day goes on.

I had hoped to spend some time today discussing teacher induction, including the topic of mentoring as a subset of that larger policy issue. It's interesting how a confluence of events and activities sometimes takes place in a narrow timeframe to focus one's attention to an issue or topic. I've experienced that over the past couple of weeks personally—involving my service on the advisory board of the Illinois Education Research Council, my attendance at a policy forum sponsored last week by MetLife and the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, and work on our own ISBE strategic planning initiatives that will highlight the efforts of the Illinois New Teacher Collaborative.

But since time is tight today—and I want to do this topic justice—I will hold off for a week in sharing my thoughts about where I think we are in Illinois on this critical issue. In the meantime—maybe as a sort of advance organizer for next week's discussion—let me recommend an article that appeared this past Saturday in the *Chicago Sun-Times* on this subject. It can be found at <http://www.suntimes.com/output/otherviews/cst-edt-ref14b.html> and many of you will recognize the authors.

Before I close, and get back to work, I want to take a moment to publicly recognize the work of **Mark Kolaz**, Assistant Superintendent for Operations at ISBE for the past 16 months. Mark (along with many others across the Agency) played a key role in reducing the certification backlog we inherited when we both assumed our positions here in September 2004. He always took care of me (I was ever referred to as "Mr. Superintendent...") and I shall miss him not being around here. As of today, Mark has moved over to the Office of the Governor as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations.

Have a great week.

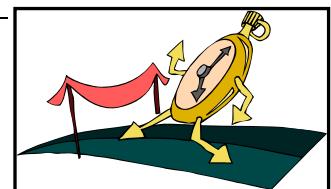
Randy Dunn

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Upcoming Deadlines

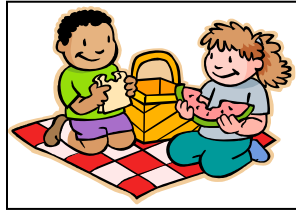
- National School Lunch Program Verification Summary Report – **January 18, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 401 (Nonpublic Special Education Facilities), Deadline for Public Comment - **January 23, 2006**
- Biotechnology Institute outstanding project summary – **January 25, 2006**
- Hurricane Education Recovery Act applications – **January 26, 2006**
- Illinois Association of Teachers of English (IATE) Best Illinois Poetry and Prose Contest - **January 31, 2006**



- Illinois Zero Waste School Program Grant – **February 1, 2006**
- *Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award* nominations due – **February 1, 2006**
- National Youth Science Camp Applications – **February 17, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision), Deadline for Public Comment - **February 20, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 25 (Certification), Deadline for Public Comment - **February 20, 2006**
- Rulemaking Part 305 (School Food Service), Deadline for Public Comment - **February 20, 2006**
- Fordham University National School Changes Awards applications – **March 3, 2006**

Nutrition

Legislation encourages Summer Food Service Programs



As part of the Childhood Hunger Relief Act (Public Act 93-1086), the General Assembly recognized the importance of the Summer Food Service Program

(SFSP) as an effective measure to be widely implemented to ensure more adequate nutrition for Illinois children. Although a mandate for SFSP was **not** implemented, it is strongly encouraged that each school where at least 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals operate a Summer Food Service Program or identify a non-profit or private agency to sponsor a Summer Food Service Program within the school district's boundaries.

The Summer Food Service Program was instituted to provide nutritious meals to children during the summer months when school is not in session. The program is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the Illinois State Board of Education. SFSP is the single largest Federal resource available for local sponsors who want to combine a feeding program with a summer activity program. Why not take advantage of this valuable resource to provide nutritious meals to the children in your community? For more information, contact **Amy Bianco** at 800-545-7892.

School food safety inspections reminder

Beginning with the 2005–2006 school year, all schools participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs are required to obtain a minimum of two food safety inspections each school year. Previously, participating schools were required to obtain a minimum of one food safety inspection per school year or comply with the frequency required by local standards. This is a result of the passage of Section 111 of the Child Nutrition and

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Reauthorization Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-265).

The required inspections must be conducted by a State or local governmental agency responsible for food safety inspections. More frequent inspections may still be required by State or local governments. In addition, schools must post, in a publicly visible location, a report on the most recent food safety inspection, and provide a copy of the food safety inspection report to a member of the public upon request. If you have questions about this change, please contact your local public health department.

Illinois Team Nutrition schools top 1,000 mark

Exactly 1027 Illinois schools have enrolled in USDA's *Team Nutrition Initiative* since its inception in 1995. These schools have been focusing their attention on the important roles of nutritious school meals, nutrition education, and a health-promoting school environment play in helping students learn to enjoy healthy eating and physical activity.

New *Team Nutrition* schools will receive a resource kit (while supplies last) of materials to help plan and carry out activities for students and their families.

How to enroll in Team Nutrition

Enrolling is easy. Print and complete the School Enrollment Form, provided as a .pdf file, on the USDA Team Nutrition website <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/team.html> and fax it to 703-305-2549 or mail it to:

Team Nutrition
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 632
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Please fax a copy to **Joan Love** at ISBE at 217-524-6124.

Student Opportunities

Illinois High school seniors sought for National Youth Science Camp honors

Two of Illinois' most promising high school seniors from Illinois will receive a full scholarship to attend a three-week summer camp. Scientists from across the nation who work on some of the most provocative topics in science today present lectures and hands-on research projects and seminars and linger to interact informally with student delegates.

The delegates will participate in two overnight expeditions into the Monongahela National Forest and a visit Washington, D. C. The National Youth Science Camp is offered at no cost to its selected participants; the scholarship will cover all educational and recreational programming, meals, lodging, and round-trip air passage. Application forms are available at <http://www.nysc.org> and must be submitted directly to the Illinois State Board of Education, **Gwen Pollock**, NYSC-Illinois State Coordinator, 100 North First Street, Springfield, IL 62777, by February 17, 2006. For further information and assistance, contact Gwen Pollock at 217-557-7322 or gpollock@isbe.net.

Illinois EPA announces annual competition for fifth and sixth grade students

Fifth and sixth grade writers and artists are invited to participate in the Poster, Poetry and Prose Contest, annually sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to increase awareness of environmental issues.

This year's theme focuses on the importance of clean water and the conservation of our drinking water, with *Water: Conserve it, We Deserve It!* as the event's theme. Special emphasis is given to air, land or water on a rotating basis.

Each school can enter up to 12 (six posters and six written) works. Entries must be postmarked and sent in to the Illinois EPA by February 17. An in-house panel from the IEPA judges all entries to select the finalists, whose entries are then judged by an outside panel of authorities to determine the top 12 winners.

All finalists, together with their families and teachers, are invited to an awards ceremony and reception that will be held on Saturday, April 8 at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield. In addition, the top 12 finalists will be given special recognition and will each receive a \$50 U.S. savings

bond and an environmental reference book for his or her school library.

Following the awards ceremony and reception, these entries will be on exhibit in the atrium of the Illinois EPA's Springfield headquarters from April 10 through May 10, and the top winners will be featured on the IEPA's homepage at <http://www.epa.state.il.us>.

Information about the annual event can be obtained by contacting **Kristi Morris-Richards** by mail at Environmental Education Coordinator, Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 62794-9276, by phone at 217-558-7198 or by email at: Kristi.Morris-Richards@epa.State.il.us.

Teacher Recognition

2006-07 Those Who Excel Nomination Packets Available

Nomination packets for the 32nd Annual Those Who Excel/Illinois Teacher of the Year are now available online. You may access the forms by visiting <http://www.isbe.net> under the Hot Topics column, with the heading Miscellaneous.

Nominations must be postmarked by May 1, 2006. The banquet will be held October 7, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Select in Decatur.



2005 Illinois
Teacher of the Year
Jacqueline Bolger

If you have questions or need additional information about the nomination process or would like to schedule Jacqueline Bolger, 2005 Teacher of the Year to speak at your school, please contact **Ann Muraro** at 217-782-4648.

Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award

Nancy and Rich Kinder of Houston, Texas have established the Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award to recognize and reward outstanding educators serving low-income children. The \$100,000 grant award honors Rich Kinder's mother, Edna C. Kinder, a former teacher in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Nominees must be full-time teachers in a K-12 classroom in a United States public or private school where at least 50 percent of students qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. Nominations must be

submitted by February 1, 2006 at
<http://www.kinderaward.org>.

The Kinders have partnered with *Knowledge is Power Program* (KIPP) to administer the award nomination and selection process. No educator in a KIPP school during the 2005-2006 school year is eligible for the award.

Classroom biotechnology success stories needed

The Biotechnology Institute is looking for outstanding grassroots biotechnology education initiatives or projects in the Illinois. The Institute would like to highlight Illinois teachers' success stories when it hosts its Annual Education Conference in Chicago, April 6-9. The Institute is particularly interested in projects that are a collaborative effort between the biotechnology industry and the education community and would be appealing to the news media.

Highlight your outstanding biotech education project by sending a 50-word summary to **Gwen Pollock** gpollock@isbe.net by January 25. By submitting your 'story', you will be eligible for participation in the institute itself and some other very important opportunities. All stories will be considered--they're probably all outstanding. For more information about the Biotechnology Institute, visit <http://www.biotechinstitute.org>.

English Language Learning

Migrant Student Survey

The Illinois State Board of Education Migrant Education Program is conducting a survey to identify districts that may have mobile children of migratory workers residing in their attendance areas. In particular, we are interested in children whose parents migrate to obtain work in agricultural production, fishing or food processing industries.

The State receives Federal funding under Title I, Part C of NCLB to identify and serve eligible migrant children.

Districts that participate in the New Generation System for reporting do not need to respond. You may respond to the survey located at http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/pdfs/migrant_survey.pdf if you have identified such children in your district.

For more information, contact **Beth Robinson** at 312-814-3850.

Grants

Hurricane Education Recovery Act deadline January 26

The United States Department of Education (USED) posted the Hurricane Education Recovery Act (HERA) notice in the Federal Register on January 12, 2006. **School districts must submit applications to the Illinois State Board of Education no later than Thursday, January 26.**

The USED notice is available online at:
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/06-327.htm>.

Nonpublic schools and parents of nonpublic school children should send their completed forms to the public school district in which the nonpublic school is located, **not** to ISBE. ISBE strongly recommends that public school districts **designate a staff member or specific point of contact** to receive these submissions from nonpublic schools and parents and use their best efforts to inform nonpublic schools of the relevant contact information.

Public school districts should mail the original copy of their completed, signed HERA applications to:

Rich Dehart
Illinois State Board of Education
Accountability Division Mail Code E-230
100 North First Street
Springfield, IL 62777

While the original signed application is required, districts may FAX an advance copy of the completed application to:

Rich Dehart
Accountability Division
Illinois State Board of Education
217-524-8750

We recommend that public school districts provide a reasonable amount time for nonpublic schools and parents of nonpublic children to submit their forms to the public school district before that public school district sends its application to ISBE on or before January 26.

Please direct any questions to **Darren Reisberg**, ISBE Deputy General Counsel via email at dreisber@isbe.net or by phone at 312-814-2223.

National School Change Awards

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA), Fordham University Graduate School of Education and Pearson Education are accepting

nominations for the Seventh Annual National School Change Awards.

A \$5,000 award is presented to each of six winning schools and the winning school's principal is a guest at the National Principals Leadership Institute.

Applications and information are available by contacting **Francesca Sinatra** at fsinatra@fordham.edu. All materials are due by March 3, 2006.

Federal Grants update

The Federal Fiscal Year 2006 budget <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/news.html#06action> but, in anticipation of an agreement, the agency has updated (as of November 28) its popular "Forecast for Funding Opportunities," which lists virtually all programs and competitions under which it has invited or expects to invite applications for new awards and provides actual or estimated dates for the transmittal of applications under these programs. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edlite-forecast.html>.

The Teaching American History Grant Program—which requires e-Application—supports projects to raise student achievement by improving teachers' appreciation and understanding of traditional American history. Grant awards assist school districts, in partnership with entities that have extensive content expertise (such as colleges and universities, libraries, and museums), to design, implement, and demonstrate "effective, research-based professional development programs." A notice of intent to apply is due January 6. The application is due February 3. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teachinghistory/>.

ISBE employment opportunities

External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at: <http://www.isbe.net/hr/pdf/positions.pdf>

In the News

Weekly news clips

Highlights from last week's education news clips are posted at:

<http://www.isbe.net/news/2006/newsclips/060113.htm>

